

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/523,975  
Reply to OA dated September 5, 2008

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of automatically marking an article which is transferred in one direction, comprising the steps of:

storing in advance a pattern for coloring an outer surface of the article with a plurality of coloring agents of respective colors different from each other;

detecting a transfer speed of the article; and

spouting a plurality of the coloring agents of respective specific amount from a plurality of nozzles, each nozzle having a coloring agent supply source connected therewith and a valve between the nozzle and the supply source, toward the outer surface of the article according to the pattern in response to the detected transfer speed.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of automatically marking an article according to claim 1, wherein the article is an electric wire.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A device for automatically marking an article which is transferred in one direction, comprising:

storing means for storing a pattern for coloring an outer surface of the article with a plurality of coloring agents of respective colors different from each other;

detecting means for detecting a transfer speed of the article;

a plurality of ~~spouting means~~ nozzles, each nozzle having a coloring agent supply source connected therewith and a valve between the nozzle and the supply source, for spouting the coloring agents of respective colors different from each other of respective specific amount toward the outer surface of the article; and

control means to make a plurality of the ~~spouting means~~ nozzles spout the coloring agent toward the outer surface of the article according to the pattern in response to the transfer speed of the article detected by the detecting means.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The device for automatically marking an article according to claim 3, wherein a plurality of the ~~spouting means~~ nozzles are arranged along the transfer direction of the article and the control means makes the ~~spouting means~~ nozzles spout the coloring agent according to a distance between the spouting means.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The device for automatically marking an article according to claim 3, wherein a plurality of the ~~spouting means~~ nozzles are arranged along a circumferential direction around the article.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The device for automatically marking an article according to claim 5, wherein the ~~spouting means~~ nozzles spouts the coloring agent through an opening, which faces the outer surface of the article, a straight line obtained by connecting a center of the opening and a center of the article runs along a spouting direction of the coloring agent, and the spouting direction crosses both perpendicular and horizontal directions at an angle of 45°.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The device for automatically marking an article as claimed in any one of claims 3 – 6, further comprising a device body for receiving the storing means and the control means, wherein the device body comprises a plurality of connectors for connecting the device body to the ~~spouting means~~ nozzles and the connectors are provided in the same number as that of the spouting means according to the respective nozzles ~~spouting means~~.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The device for automatically marking an article as claimed in any one of claims 3-6, wherein the article is an electric wire.

Claim 9 (Original): The device for automatically marking an article according to claim 8, wherein the electric wire is put in an electric wire cutting machine which cuts the electric wire after transferring the electric wire in said one direction.